

AGENDA ITEM III A 2

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

L. E. FLETCHER TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN TECHNICAL STUDIES

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

L. E. Fletcher campus of the Louisiana Technical College (LTC) was re-designated a "Technical/Community College" by the Board of Regents on June 26, 2003. The College is in the process of transitioning from a technical campus to that of a technical *community* college. It plans to maintain its high-quality technical programs within the structure of degree types and definitions approved by the Board of Regents. The proposal for a new Associate of Applied Science in Technical Studies is an excellent model for other colleges to follow when making such adjustments.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Curriculum

The proposed A.A.S. in Technical Studies will offer students an opportunity to earn an associate degree in areas in which the college does not offer specialized degree programs. The Technical Studies program will allow a student to select an option from one of three broad areas: Manufacturing Technology, Transportation Technology and Construction Services Technology. All students will complete fifteen credit hours of general education courses and fifteen hours of a technical studies core. Thirty additional hours of technical courses directly related to career goals will complete the sixty-hour curriculum. The program is *not* designed for transfer; it is designed to prepare students for immediate employment. All courses are to be selected in consultation with an advisor. Components are shown below:

General Education

English Composition	3
College Algebra or higher	3
Biological or Physical Science	3
Humanities	3
Social or Behavioral Science	3
Total	15

Core Courses

Industrial Safety & First Aid	3
Blueprint Reading	3
Planning & Management	4
Computer Literacy	3
Career Development	2
Total	15

Students then choose coursework from one of three available options:

Options

Manufacturing Technology	30
credits selected from Machine Tool Technology; Welding	
or	
Transportation Technology	30
credits selected from Automotive Technology; Marine Diesel Technology	
or	
Construction Services Technology	30
credits selected from Electrician; Residential Air Conditioning	
Total	30

2. Need

The new degree program would be a unique offering in Louisiana. It will allow students to select a technical program of study from a general degree program that will also prepare them for a career. It will also provide students who have obtained a Technical Diploma an opportunity to apply those earned college credits to an associate degree. Additionally, the proposed program provides a model for other LCTCS colleges seeking to reconfigure low-completer stand-alone technical programs, at various levels, into a more generalized associate degree that will allow for various technical study options.

3. Students

The primary source of students for the proposed program will be those completing a diploma or certificate program from FTCC. For AY 2003-04, 258 students enrolled at the College did not complete a degree program. The projections shown below assume that only 4% will choose to

pursue a Technical Studies degree.

	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
Enrollment	15	20	25	25	25
Graduates	5	8	10	11	11

Additional students may be attracted to FTCC because of the opportunity to complete an associate degree in conjunction with technical training or as an extension of their previous technical training.

4. Faculty

No new faculty will be needed to offer this program. Technical courses will be offered by current faculty. General education courses are currently offered to students enrolled in existing degree programs. All faculty teaching credit-hour courses will be involved, and all have credentials consistent with SACS-COC principles of accreditation. (Faculty credentials are on file in the Office of Academic Affairs.)

5. Library

In order to comply with SACS-COC standards, the College is in the process of expanding the library and its staff. The College has also become a member of the LOUIS library network (as of July 2004), which provides further excellent support. Students also have access to the Allen J. Ellender Memorial Library on the Nicholls State University (NSU) campus, eighteen miles away, and to the collections at the local Terrebonne Parish Library. Library acquisitions for FY 2003-04 included equipment (\$175,340) and books (\$33,435). Total acquisitions for FY 2004-05 are expected to be \$55,000. Because the proposed A.A.S. in Technical Studies is an extension of other programs, no additional library expenses *directly* related to the program are anticipated.

6. Facilities/Equipment

Because this is an interdisciplinary program, all facilities of the college will be used to offer the program. While the College expects that space will become limited as the program grows, it is seeking new facilities to accommodate the anticipated growth.

7. Administration

The proposed program is an interdisciplinary program; all departments except the Marine Operations Department will participate in the program. It will be administered by the Dean of Instruction with campus-wide participation. Students will be advised by the Associate of General Studies program coordinator. The institution does not anticipate that the proposed program will affect its current administrative structure.

8. Accreditation

This program is not eligible for any specific programmatic accreditation. The Council on Occupation Education (COE) currently accredits the College. As part of its entire range of degree offerings, this program will be part of Fletcher's application to SACS/CoC for institutional accreditation. The College plans to submit its SACS/CoC application in February 2005.

9. Budget

<u>Expenses</u>	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four
Supplies	2,000			
TOTAL	\$ 2,000	0	0	0

<u>Revenues</u>	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four
Tuition, Fees	2,000			
TOTAL	\$ 2,000			

The College projects that this program will likely be self-sustaining in the first year of implementation.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The curriculum is consistent with established norms for degrees of this type. If individual options develop fully, then the College should consider at some future time establishing separate and distinct degree for each. Need for the program exists. Student interest is likely. No new technical faculty are needed to implement the program, yet, it is unclear whether new/additional general education faculty are still required. Library resources are developing; they should be adequate for students at the time the program is implemented. Facilities are adequate for implementation. Administrative plans are reasonable. Program accreditation is not an issue. The budget is reasonable.

Given that the College is in the process hiring faculty and developing a library, the staff recommends conditional approval with stipulations for a required report as indicated in the motion which follows.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant conditional approval of the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Technical Studies program (CIP 24.0102) at L. E. Fletcher Technical Community College, to be implemented in January, 2005, with the following stipulations:

1. *By March 15, 2005, the College shall inform the Commissioner of Higher Education of the status of its application to SACS/CoC for institutional candidacy.*
2. *By September 1, 2005, the College shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Higher Education which describes the College's progress toward hiring needed full-time general education faculty for the program and developing its library to meet SACS-COC standards;*
3. *Upon receipt of the report required in #2 above, the Board of Regents shall consider whether additional progress reports will be needed.*